

**Subject:** [Fwd: Re: Southeast Conference - TRANSPORTATION CMTE - THURS - Dec 15]  
**From:** Jeff Ottesen <jeff\_ottesen@dot.state.ak.us>  
**Date:** Wed, 14 Dec 2005 11:49:18 -0900  
**To:** Susan K Woodrow <susan\_woodrow@dot.state.ak.us>

----- Original Message -----

**Subject:** Re: Southeast Conference - TRANSPORTATION CMTE - THURS - Dec 15  
**Date:** Wed, 14 Dec 2005 11:42:28 -0900  
**From:** Leo Luczak <luczak@alaska.net>  
**To:** rollo@seconference.org  
**CC:** 'Rob Allen' <rallen@allenmarine.com>, 'Carol Rushmore' <ecodev@wrangell.com>, 'Cliff Skilling' <cliffs@aml.lynden.com>, 'Dave Kensinger' <chelan@alaska.net>, 'Dewey Duvall' <rduvall@gci.net>, 'Doug Ward' <dward@akship.com>, 'Johnstein' <cityofsitka.com>, 'ibupak' <ibupak@acsalaska.net>, 'John Conley' <jc.conley@worldnet.att.net>, 'Jeannie Johnson' <skylark@alaska.net>, 'Joel Hansen' <jcelh@theboatcompany.com>, 'John Pearson' <jpearson@ptialaska.net>, 'Judy Bakeberg' <bakeberg@gci.net>, 'Keith Perkins' <kperkins@ak.usda.gov>, 'Lawrence Blood' <chamber@ptialaska.net>, 'Marlene Campbell' <campbell@cityofsitka.com>, 'Maxine Thompson' <nllitenme@ptialaska.net>, 'mkorsmo@aptalaska.net', 'Paul Axelson' <paula@norpacl.com>, 'Rosemary Hagevig' <ccsjuneau.com>, 'lgerhard@interislandferry.com', 'Patricia Phillips, Mayor: City of Pelican' <mayor@pelicanacity.net>, 'Keith Simila' <ksimila@fs.fed.us>, 'alaskamade67@hotmail.com', 'Terry Otness' <totness@gci.net>, 'Robin Taylor' <robin.taylor@dot.state.ak.us>, 'Glacier Bay Country Inn' <info@glacierbayalaska.com>, 'Malcom Menzies' <m.menzies@dot.state.ak.us>, 'pat kemp@dot.state.ak.us', 'maryamiller@fs.fed.us', 'tbriggs@interislandferry.com', 'Tim Joyce' <timothyjoyce@yahoo.com>, 'Lila Koplin' <cityclerk@cityofcordova.net>, 'citymanager@cityofcordova.net', 'Jeff Ottesen' <jeff\_ottesen@dot.state.ak.us>, 'Andy Hughes' <andy.hughes@dot.state.ak.us>, 'John Falvey' <john.falvey@dot.state.ak.us>, 'GARY AND DEBBIE PAXTON' <d.h.paxton@worldnet.att.net>, 'Linda Snow' <ljsnow@ak.net>, 'Hugh Bevan' <hughbevan@gci.net>  
**References:** <20051212171132.52B6385149@mx55.your-site.com>

Hi Rollo,

Here's is the City of Petersburg's response to the Draft 2006 - 2008 STIP as you requested.

I am traveling way south tomorrow and I may have to miss tomorrow's teleconference though....

Adios~

Leo

Rollo Pool wrote:

Transportation Committee, Southeast Conference:

Meeting - Thurs Dec. 15, 10a

1-888-550-5602 code 8249 4332

Attached are meeting notes from Nov. 17 meeting, the Dec 15 agenda and a white paper on creating a marine highway port authority.

Hope to see you there....

-Rollo

463-3445 x 27

Jeff Ottesen <jeff\_ottesen@dot.state.ak.us>  
Director  
Alaska Dept. of Transportation  
Division of Program Development

Adot-stip6.doc

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December 14, 2005

Department of Transportation and Public Facilities  
Division of Statewide Planning  
3132 Channel Drive, Room 200  
Juneau, AK 99801-789  
Attn: Andy Hughes

Re: Draft 2006 – 2008 STIP

Dear Mr. Hughes,

As the Mayor of the City of Petersburg I am urging the Alaska Department of Transportation to restore Project 3011 – Mitkof Highway Upgrade in the 2006 – 2008 Statewide Transportation Plan.

The Alaska Department of Transportation is aware of the substandard condition of South Mitkof Highway, and the City has made repeated requests for the State to upgrade this section of highway. We have repeatedly been assured by ADOT that the South Mitkof Highway Improvements would occur in conjunction with Project 9059 – South Mitkof Ferry Terminal. The construction of the South Mitkof Ferry Terminal is now underway. Once the facility is in operation the traffic load on this unsafe section of Mitkof Highway will increase substantially.

The City of Petersburg believes that the Alaska Department of Transportation would be placing the traveling public at great risk by not upgrading the South Mitkof Highway. The operation of the South Mitkof Ferry Terminal will result in an increase in vehicular traffic as persons using the Alaska Marine Highway System will be forced to transverse Mitkof Island using this hazardous section of State roadway. We are concerned that the roadway will further deteriorate from the increase in traffic traveling between terminals in order to complete their journey on the Alaska Marine Highway System. The condition of the existing road limits travel in the fall/winter/spring, but the need for the traveling public to use the highway in all seasons is likely to further deteriorate the roadbed and increase the likelihood of vehicular accidents on South Mitkof Highway.

**Deleted:** This section of highway is susceptible to the destructive freeze/thaw cycles that create numerous potholes and also allow "washboard" conditions in the warmer months.

**Deleted:** throughout all seasons

**Deleted:** This increased traffic will exacerbate the existing poor road conditions and dramatically increase safety concerns and required maintenance needs. To place additional traffic on this roadway without regard to the traveling public's safety is misguided.

We are also concerned that the substandard condition of South Mitkof Highway will make emergency responses difficult. The Petersburg emergency services are located in the center of town (Mile 0). Should an emergency occur on this section of highway a response would be initiated from this location. The emergency vehicles will travel past the city limits (Mile 9) and continue past the end of the pavement (Mile 17.5). At this location the improved highway ends and the substandard roadway begins. Emergency responders would then continue on the gravel roadway that is lacking a proper base that can support vehicular traffic. They would continue on past the one-lane bridge (Mile 22) that ADOT has identified as being in need of replacement, then continue on the gravel roadway until they reach the South Mitkof Ferry Terminal (Mile 25).

**Deleted:** potholed and washboarded

**Deleted:** being proposed to remain unimproved.

**Deleted:** Our volunteer emergency responders are up to the task of meeting emergency needs at the south end of Mitkof Island, but slower response times and concerns for our volunteer's safety weigh heavily on our minds when thinking of future life and death situations that will need their attention.

We are also concerned about the effect this section of roadway will have on the transportation of people and goods between Southeast communities. Persons traveling on the Alaska Marine Highway and the InterIsland Ferry using the South Mitkof Terminal will be forced to travel on 7.5 miles of substandard gravel road. A key to increasing the use of the ferry system in the off-peak season is designing the system so that school children can use the vessels as they travel between Southeast Communities. If ADOT cannot provide a safe highway link to the terminal, how can the AMHS hope to increase ridership in these months when the ferries have excess capacity? To not improve this section of highway in conjunction with the construction of the new terminal will be very detrimental to the efforts to promote the shuttle ferry concept and to increase ferry ridership.

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The City of Petersburg is strongly urging the Alaska Department of Transportation to address these important safety concerns by amending the 2006-2008 STIP to restore Project 3011 – Mitkof Highway Upgrade in order that the highway improvements can be made in conjunction with Project 9059 – South Mitkof Ferry Terminal. To refuse to honor the commitment that has been made to improve this vital section of the transportation system would be a disservice to the residents of Southeast Alaska and to the traveling public.

Sincerely,

Ted Smith – Mayor of Petersburg

CC: Governor Murkowski  
 Senator Bert Stedman  
 Representative Peggy Wilson  
 Commissioner Mike Barton  
 S.E. Regional Director Malcolm Menzies